



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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**NEWS SUMMARY:**

United States Attorney Steven M. Biskupic announced today that a grand jury sitting in the Eastern District of Wisconsin has returned a fifteen-count indictment against Lamar Ray, Terry Bowling, Rodney Harris, Dennis Spears and Nicole Bowling for their roles in abduction robberies committed between November 16, 2001 and February 4, 2005.

Previous court filings indicate the following:

**November 16, 2001**

On November 16, 2001, an employee (victim#1) of the Educator's Credit Union was getting out of a car when two men ran up to her. Victim #1 saw that one man was armed with a firearm. She was grabbed and dragged as she fell. While on the ground, victim #1 was shot in the shoulder area. Taken from victim #1 were several personal items, as well as the keys belonging to the Educator's Credit Union. The two men then fled.

Lamar A. Ray, after being arrested admitted that he had been watching the Educator's Credit Union for a few weeks to see if it was a good place to rob. Ray decided to pick an employee as his abduction victim. Ray recruited some others since he wanted them to help him get the victim and force her to go with them to open the credit union and take the money.

Ray admitted that he gave them the handgun. Victim #1 ended up getting shot as she was struggling to get away and they were not able to abduct her,

**November 30, 2001**

On November 30, 2001, one of the managers(victim #2) from the Educator's Credit Union was leaving for work from her home. As victim #2 went to her garage she was confronted by masked and armed men. She was knocked to the ground, duct taped, and her hands were tied.

They took the Educator's Credit Union keys she had and demanded the codes to get into the Educator's Credit Union, which she did.. The robbers threatened to shoot her if she gave the wrong codes.

Lamar Ray admitted that he still wanted to rob the Educator's Credit Union so he started to watch the Educator's Credit Union again. He picked victim #2 and planned to grab her and make her surrender the credit union's codes and keys.

Ray, and those he recruited, went to victim #2's house with ski masks, a handgun, gloves, blow

torch and duct tape. Once the garage door opened, they got control of victim #2 and asked for the codes to the credit union, which she gave them. Ray grabbed the keys, and they tied up victim #2. Using victim #2's car, they drove to the area of the credit union but they were unable to use the keys to open the credit union so they then fled the scene.

### **December 13, 2002**

On December 13, 2002, gunmen went to another Educator Credit Union manager's house and kidnaped her (victim #3). Before leaving, the robbers bound victim #3's husband and young child and laid them both in a bathtub.

Lamar Ray admitted that he picked this credit union because it was large and he thought there would be a lot of money in the vault. Ray stated that he had used a blow torch to heat up the glass window and remove the pane to get into the home.

### **May 19, 2003**

On May 19, 2003, an employee (victim #4) of the Money Express, was at when she saw that a masked gunman had a gun in her. He told her "Just ease out of bed, don't do anything stupid...." The victim was told that she was to go with the armed robbers to her job location. They waited until approximately 8:00 a.m. and then took the victim in the victim's car to the Money Express. Victim #4 was taken at gunpoint to the check cashing store where she works and made to empty the store's safe. She was instructed to take the money from the check cashing business, put it into a bag and to give it to the robbers.

Terry Bowling admitted that he committed the armed robbery of the Money Express with others. He said that one of his accomplices had a duffle bag with him which contained a AR-15 rifle. They took the victim and her car to the Money Express and told her to go in and get the money. She came out with the bag, they took it and left in her car, which they later abandoned and split the money.

### **October 25, 2003**

On October 25, 2003, two armed men entered the residence of a man (victim # 5) who manages Cashland and told him that they had kidnaped his son and that they would hold the son until victim #5 gave them money from Cashland. Victim #5, fearing for his son and his own safety, went into Cashland and took an amount of money that he handed over to the robbers. Victim #5, once he was away from the robbers, contacted the police and they determined that the robbers had lied to him about kidnaping his son.

Lamar Ray admitted that he had entered victim #5's residence on October 25, 2003, with others, that they were armed and that he had made the victim believe that he had kidnaped his son.

### **August 27, 2004**

On August 27, Milwaukee police received a 911 call from an employee of Check Cashers, located at 4201 West Capitol Drive . The employee, (victim #6), stated that she awoke in the early morning hours and observed two masked and armed men in her kitchen. . They told her that they were there to get the money out of Check Cashers, where she worked She was ordered to drive to the Check Cashers and instructed to empty the vault and bring it to a drop spot, which she did. . She quickly went back into the Check Cashers and called 911. When the police arrived, the robbers were already gone.

Lamar Ray admitted to law enforcement that he decided to rob the Check Cashers and that he picked victim #6 to get the money for him. He went to victim #6's home with a co-actor who had a 44 mag. Desert Eagle semi-automatic handgun. Ray located the alarm box and disarmed the alarm system. Ray told victim #6 to get dressed and that she was going with them to take the money out of the vault at the check store. According to Ray, victim #6 came out of the business and placed a bag at the drop point as she had been instructed. Ray and his co-actor took the bag, drove away, abandoned the victim's car and later split the money .

### **November 19, 2004**

On November 19, 2004, armed men entered the home of victim #5 again. This time they did in fact take his 20-year-old son hostage and told him that they would only release his son if he went to Cashland, took the money out and brought it to a predetermined location.

The men warned the manager not to call police or FBI and that he would be under surveillance when he dropped off the money, and that they would kill his son if he did not follow the directions.

Unbeknownst to the robbers, the police were notified, and undercover officers were there for the handoff. The police tried to arrest Lamar Ray; however, he ran and knocked down several officers as he tried to use a Tazer gun against them. After a chase, the police were able to apprehend the defendant. Victim #5's son was then found in the area from where Ray had fled.

Ray was finally apprehended and admitted to having entered victim #5's residence again and taking the son hostage.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Milwaukee Police Department. The case has been assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Karine Moreno-Taxman.

The public is cautioned that an indictment is merely the formal method of returning charges against an individual and does not constitute inference of his or her guilt. An individual

is presumed innocent until such time, if ever, the government established his or her guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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